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San Francisco

George Davidson

## EXPLANATION

OF

# AN INDIAN MAP

OF THE

RIVERS, LAKES, TRAILS AND MOUNTAINS  
FROM THE CHILKAHT TO THE YUKON,

DRAWN BY

THE CHILKAHT CHIEF, KOHKLUX,  
IN 1869.

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.

Reprinted from "Mazama," April, 1901.

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# EXPLANATION OF AN INDIAN MAP

OF THE RIVERS, LAKES, TRAILS AND MOUNTAINS FROM THE  
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Fifteen years ago that region of Alaska and Canada lying between the coast, under the St. Elias and Yakutat ranges, and the Yukon River; and between the Chilkahnt and Lewes Rivers on the east, and the White River on the west, was a terra incognita. It covered an area of about 50,000 square miles, and was drained by unknown tributaries of the White, Yukon and Lewes Rivers; by the Chilkahnt and the All-segh'; and the large Katch-kwae-wugh' and the Kaskar Wurleh. It contained numerous large lakes first made known to us in 1869.

At a location on the north bend of the All-segh', where the line of Indian travel was comparatively easy towards the west, north, east and southeast, a yearly meeting of different tribes took place for purposes of traffic between the interior Indians and the Chilkahnts, who were strong enough to control the coast traffic.

A very large part of the above territory is drained into the Pacific by the river known on the coast as the All-segh', which breaks through the St. Elias and Yakutat ranges about fifty-five miles east of Yakutat Bay, with a maximum current of ten miles.

As a matter of fact, the whole area of Alaska and the Northwest Territory of Canada was unknown except along the river courses; and even these were very imperfectly laid down. We have now partial reports and maps from modern travelers, as Raymond, Dall, Russell, McGrath, Turner, Allen, Abercrombie, Krause, Schwatka, Wells, Glave and others; and from Dawson, Ogilvie, McConnell and others, for the Canadian Government. Of those who earlier struck into the unknown region we have mentioned were Wells and Glave, but they were not properly outfitted with instrumental means for geographical determinations.

It happened that upon our second trip to Alaska we obtained material that was important in laying down two routes from our station on the Chilkahnt to Fort Selkirk, at the junction of the Pelly and Lewes, where they form the Yukon, and we now propose to pre-

sent an abstract of what we then learned, and collate it with later investigations. It will reconcile names, and point to an interesting region for exploration.

In 1860 we made the trip up the Chilkahit to observe the total solar eclipse of August 7. At Sitka, through the kind offices of the military commander, General Jefferson C. Davis, we were brought face to face with Kohklux', the famous chief of the Chilkahits, then held in durance for some petty offence. He certainly was not in a friendly mood, because some of his people had been shot down by the guard when trying to escape from custody. This chief was a man of commanding presence, nearly six feet high, broad chest, and a well-formed head that measured twenty-four inches in circumference. He carried a bullet-hole in his cheek. He was held to be the greatest warrior and diplomat of all the tribes north and west of the Stak-heen. In our future relations we found him truthful and absolutely honest. With all the instruments, tools, camp equipage, stores, carried and handled by his people, we never lost a single article during our stay at his strong village. For the release of his people by General Davis he promised us assistance and protection wherever we chose a station; and he fulfilled in spirit and letter every promise, and our every wish was attended to.

We selected the village of Klu-kwan', in 59 deg. 25 min., for the observations, and, fortunately, we were enabled to use our Chinook jargon with the two wives of Kohklux; and in our interviews we learned that he had projected and carried out the destruction of the Hudson's Bay Company's station at Fort Selkirk on the 21st of August, 1852, because they had dared to interfere with his traffic with the Tahk-heesh and other interior Indians. This fact was unknown to the Canadians until we communicated it to Land Commissioner Ogilvie, in 1807.

At his own suggestion Kohklux proposed to draw upon paper his route to and from Fort Selkirk. The second attempt was upon a large sheet, 43x27 inches. The operation cost him and his two wives two or three days' labor with pencil and no rubber. It lacked names and days of travel on the different parts of the route to and the second route from Selkirk. It began at Point Seduction, in Lynn Canal, with islands, streams and lakes; and with mountains in profile. Under their direction we applied the names to all important positions and objects, and they number over 100. They were subsequently verified; and it was a great astonishment to them that we could announce to them the names they had given, and he begged to know how we did it.

With these few preliminary remarks of an interesting experience, we propose to follow Kohklux, his wives and warriors, from Klukwan to the Tat-sae-heen'-a, below Fort Selkirk; premising that een, cena, heen, heen-a, or any other form with een, refers to a fresh-water stream.

In July the party started along the main Chil'ah, or Yagh-heen'-a, and continued for about fifteen miles northward to the first large tributary coming in from the northeastward. They followed this stream three days to the falls or rapids, Yough-ya-koon, thence two days to the glacier in the divide of the Kotusk Mountains. He gives details of tributaries and mountains.

The great glacier which he crossed comes in from the eastward, between two large mountain masses. The eastern mountain is double-peaked, and named Tehu'-kit'-lee. Beyond the glacier to the northeastward he starts a stream that flows northeast and then northwest, with several small lakes on its course, and finally enters the Lake Arkell, beyond the Gull-egg Islands. He names the river Ta-gish' (hard "g"). At its mouth he marks a cache and an Indian trail towards the east. He did not follow this stream, but the one that leads to Lake Maud from another glacier, or a branch of the large one. He was two days crossing the glacier region, and apparently followed the east shore of Lake Maud, or Sur-guae-ae-ta'. He notes small tributaries and lakes; and on the east marks a great snow mountain, Hoo-tehæ-siti. He was one day following the Sur-kwak-ae-waht-heen-a, that connects Lake Maud with Lake Arkell a few miles north of its southern extremity. Lake Arkell he names Koo-see-wagh' or Koo-soo-wagh', and it required three days to traverse. He notes and names the Gull-egg Islets, and the cache he left at the mouth of the Ta-gish', or Hahk-heesh, on the eastern shore. The eastern branch of this stream Kohklux locates in a glacier or valley, Ka-tu-wa-kaegh', lying towards the west arm of Lake Bennett; and into this eastern branch he flows a stream from the north-northwest. It is by these streams that the Indian trail from Arkell leads to Bennett, to be reached in two days.

From the foot of Lake Arkell he entered the Kow-waht-heen'-a, usually called the Tahk-heena River, that enters the Lewes in latitude 60 deg. 50 min., about fifteen miles below the White Horse Rapids. He marks the rapids on the Kow-waht-heen-a, also the Kow-ae-teen-a, or Mendenhall tributary of the left bank, and the lake, Yut-tae-ghat', at its head. He does not note the tributary coming in from the right bank, which Ogilvie has designated with a lake at its head.

About a dozen miles below the Wot-wah-t-heen-a, the Lewes discharges into Lake Labarge; but three or four miles before the latter is reached, Kohklux has a stream coming in from the left bank, called the Ka-hat-tee-kee-tee-heen. It appears to come from the westward, through a narrow gorge in the mountains, and further from a narrow grass valley, called the Tehu-kam-see-tee, which lies at right angles and northward of the gorge. This valley appears to head northward towards the Lake Me-tagh-ko of his return route.

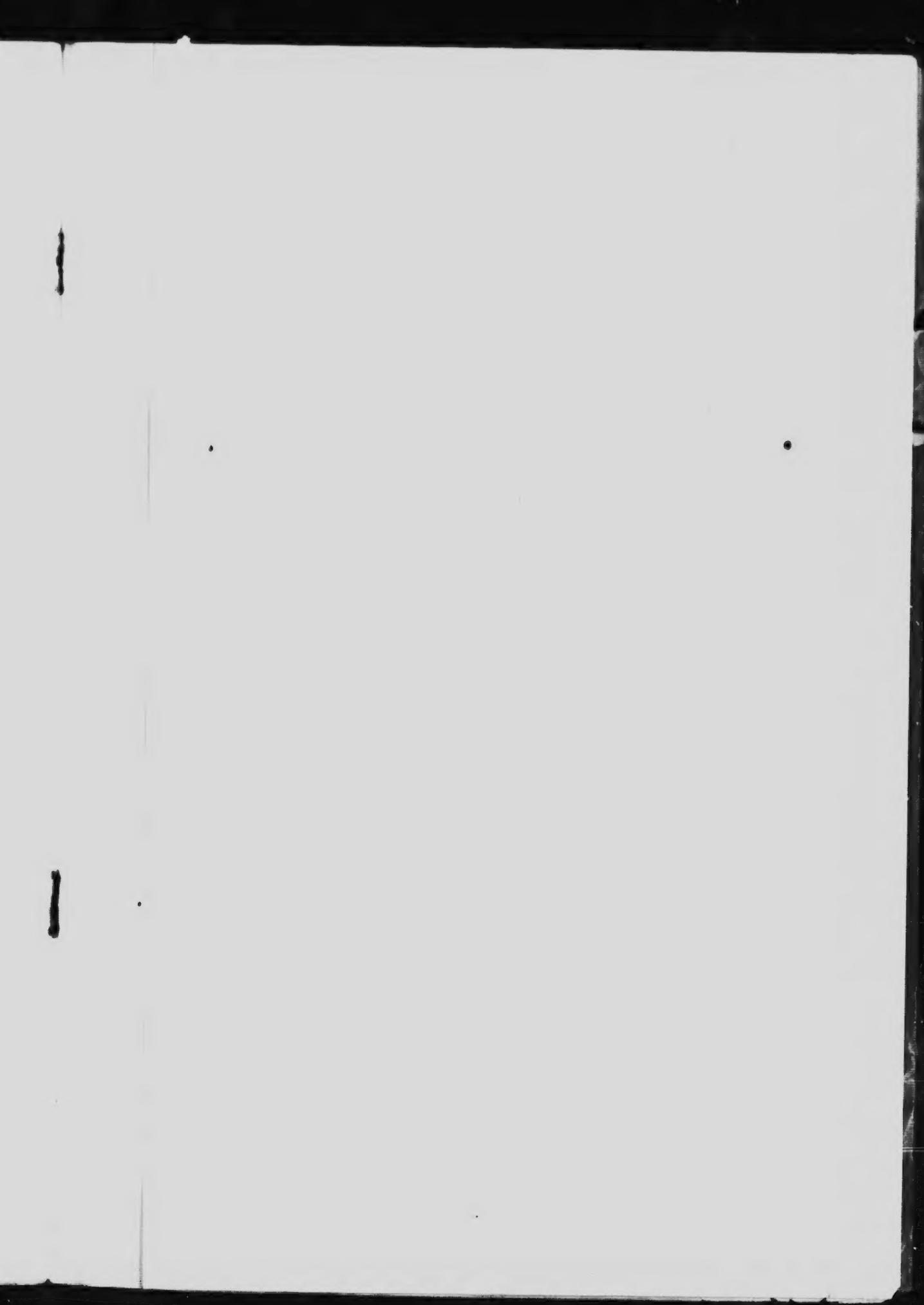
Kohklux designates the Lewes between the mouth of the Kow-waht-heen-a and Lake Marsh to the southeast, as the Sish-sha' Kow-waht-heen-a, and names Lake Marsh Ta-gish-sha' (hard "g"), with a village of Takh-heesh at the northeast angle, where the river debouches. Professor Dawson says the Tagish name of this lake is Ta-gish-ai, or the Tagischa of Krause.

Kohklux has a native village at the southeast point of Lake Labarge. I was one day running down this lake, which is thirty-one miles in length, nearly north and south. It is about 1,060 feet above the sea. Kohklux places the higher mountains on the west side. He names the lake Kluk-tak-sy'-ee, or Kluk-tak-sy'-a. (Sy-ah in Chinook means far away, or long distance.) Schwatka named it Labarge, after a well-known pioneer, Michael Labarge, but reported the Indian name, Kluk-tas-si. Dr. Dawson says the Tagish name is Tlootal-sai, and remarks that Kruse called it the Tahiniwud, "which is evidently the name given to me as that of the Lewes River, or the Tah-hini-wat,

At the northern extremity of Lake Labarge, Kohklux built a raft for the navigation of the river hence to Fort Selkirk. He names the river below the lake Tah-heen-ae (Salmon River), and notes that there are no mountains below this lake.

On this trip down the Lewes, or Tah-heen-ae, the map of Kohklux is quite important, and we are able to locate the relative positions of the several large tributaries by their native names.

Fifteen to twenty miles below Lake Labarge the River Newberry, or Tess-el-heena, of Schwatka, enters the right bank. This is the Hootalin'qua of the miners, and the Tes-s'l Heena of Kohklux. Dr. Dawson says the Tagish Indians gave him the name Teslintoo; Ogilvie calls it the Tes-lin-touh. It drains the great Lake Tes-leen, which is about 110 miles to the southeastward; and the Indians report it to be the largest of the lakes of this region, and Ogilvie gives it, and the line of lakes at its head, at 125 miles.



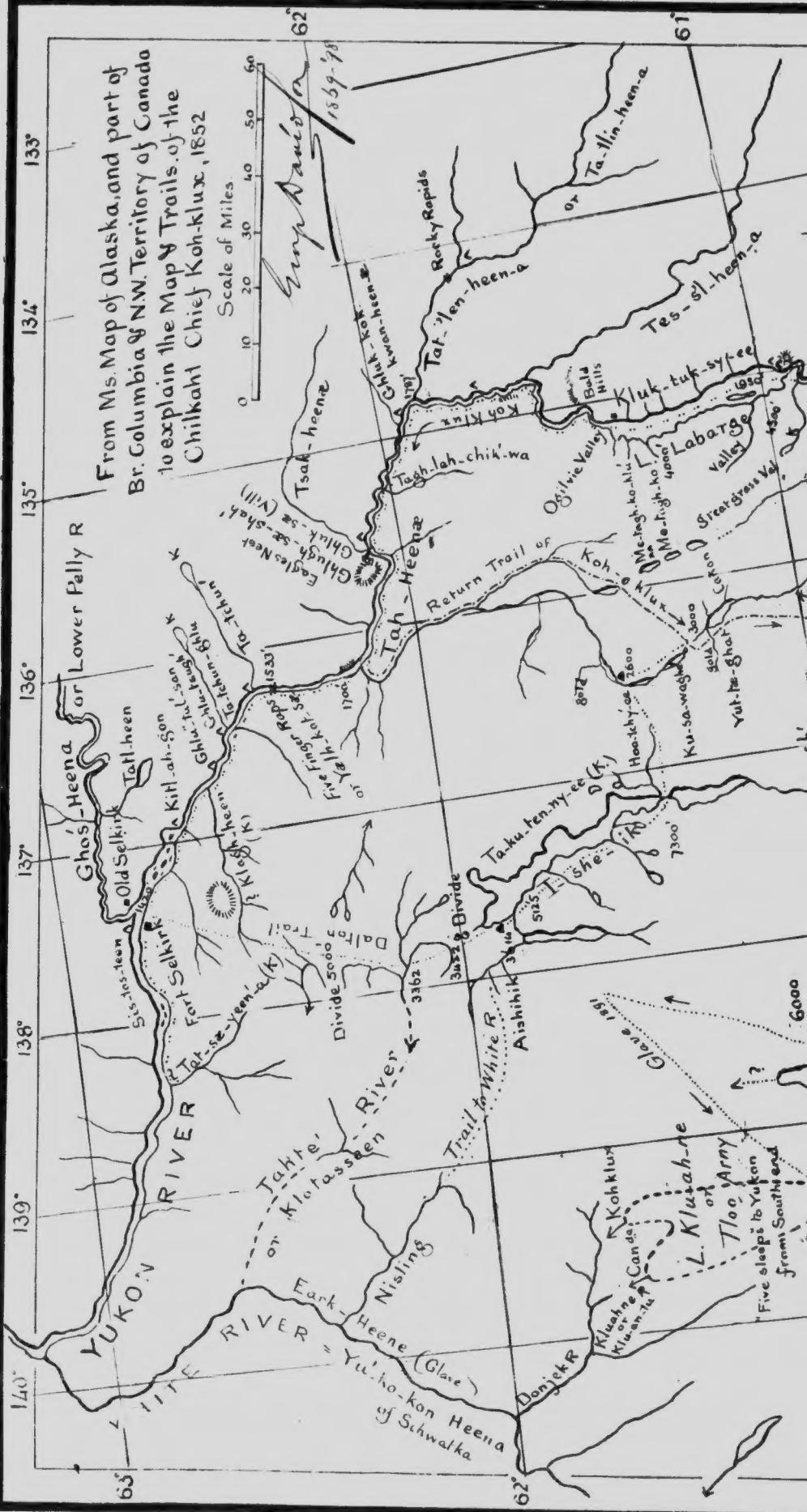
From Ms. Map of Alaska, and part of Br. Columbia & N.W. Territory of Canada to explain the Map & Trails of the Chilkahlt Chief Koh-Klux, 1852

Scale of Miles

0	10	20	30	40	50	60
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*Henry Davison*

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About a dozen discharges into La latter is reached, a bank, called the the westward, thro from a narrow gap at right angles and to head northward.

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The width of the Tes-s'l-heena is 575 feet at its mouth, with a velocity of less than three miles, while the Lewes has a width of 420 feet, and a velocity of nearly six miles per hour.

Thirty-three miles below the Tes-s'l-heena, the Big Salmon of the miners, or the D'Abbadie of Schwatka, enters the right bank from the southeast. It is the Tat'-len-heena of Kohklux, and Dawson says it is the Ta-tlin-hi-ni of the Tagish Indians. It is a long river, and has a lake at each head of its two main tributaries.

Thence the main direction of the Lewes to the Yukon is northwest for ninety miles as the crow flies.

Some distance below the Tes-s'l-heena, Kohklux has a small stream entering the right bank. It has the long name Ghluk-kok-kwan-heen'-a. Ogilvie has a stream entering four or five miles down the river from the Big Salmon, but without a name. Kohklux was six days in reaching this stream from Lake Labarge.

About thirty-six miles below the Big Salmon, the Little Salmon enters the right bank of the Lewes. It is the Tsak-heen-ae of Kohklux; and just below it is a native village of "Sticks," to which Kohklux gives the name Ghluk-sae'.

In the southern bend of the Lewes, eight miles below the Little Salmon, Schwatka has located an isolated rocky hill, about 500 feet elevation, which he names the "Eagle-nest Butte," from the Chilkahit name. He says the Tagish call it the Otter-tail. Kohklux has drawn it as a sugarloaf, and named it Glugh-sae-shah'. He has a small stream entering at the upper, or southern, side, and so has Ogilvie.

On the left bank of the Lewes, not far below the Eagle-nest Butte, Kohklux had upon his first sketch a small stream named Tagh-lah-chik'-wa, probably the same that Ogilvie places in 60 deg. 3 min. latitude.

In latitude 62 deg. 9 min., Schwatka places the mouth of the Nordenskjold, or the Nan-sun-dun, coming in on the left bank. Dalton calls it the Nats-un-dum; Kohklux names it the Nats-un-tum'.

This is an important point on Kohklux' map, because here, on his return from Fort Selkirk, he left the Lewes and followed up this river. It is the northern terminus of the Dalton east trail.

Thirteen miles in a direct line north of the Nats-un-tum', in latitude 62 deg. 20 min., the Tatchun of Schwatka enters the right bank of the Lewes, from the east-northeast. It is the Ta-tchun' of Kohklux, who has a lake at its head. Dawson calls it the Tatshun River. Kohklux was six days going down the Lewes from Ghluk-kok-kwan-heena to the Ta-tchun'. Two miles before reaching the

Ta-tehun occur the "Five-Finger Rapids" of the miners, or the Rink Rapids of Schwatka. Kohklux called them the Yaelh-kot-sae, and verbally described them.

From the Ta-tehun the distance to the Pelly River is fifty-nine miles according to Ogilvie, who adds no side streams of any importance; nevertheless, Kohklux has on the right bank a stream and two villages; and a stream on the left bank, with their names.

When Kohklux reached the Pelly River he named it the Ghos'-heena, and Fort Selkirk "King George's House," which is the Chinook name for a Hudson's Bay establishment. Far up the Pelly he has drawn a large lake, into which a large fall is pouring its waters; this, perhaps, from native reports to him. Kohklux continued his voyage down the Yukon to secure the support of the Indians of that region in his intended raid. On the left bank of the Yukon he places a stream coming in, which he names the Tal-sae-heena, which he reached in eleven days from Ta-tehun. We have had no means of identifying this stream; it is probably the Selwyn. His itinerary to the Yukon covered thirty days. After the burning of Fort Selkirk, Kohklux returned up the Lewes, and left it at the mouth of the Tats-un-tun'. Thence he followed a snow-shoe trail along the right bank of the river to its lowest right-bank tributary, coming from the south; followed this, and turned to the westward at the head of the lake feeding that stream, with a smaller lake a little farther south. He gives no names. Near where this tributary debouches, and to the northward and westward of the Nats-un-tun, he places an unnamed and disconnected lake.

Kohklux avoided the direct trail to Hoo-tchy'-ee Lake and village, crossed the hills on the east through a depression running north and south, and came out at the southern head of the Hoo-tchy'-ee series.

Kohklux does not connect these lakes with the Yut-tae-gnat' Lake, at the head of the Mendenhall River, although he has a small stream leading from this latter lake towards and close to the Hoo-tchy'-ee Lakes, all of which he names.

The Hoo-tchy'-ee is doubtless the Hootch-eye of Glave, who named it from report only; the Hootch-i of Ogilvie and Dalton, and the Hutshi of the Canadian map of 1898. It is about 2,600 feet above the sea.

Beyond the low hills that lie to the eastward of the Hoo-tchy'-ee system, Kohklux has laid down and named three other lakes that are continued southward from that one which he rounded at the head of the tributary of the Tats-un-tun. He does not connect this east-

ern series by watercourse, but they point southeasterly to the headwaters of one or other of the streams that run south into the left bank of the Kow-wat-heen-a; perhaps the Klokhok.

To the east of the divide where Kohklux passed the head of the Hoo-tchy-ee series, he has drawn a deep valley, running east to the other series of lakes; but we have no space for details.

Going back for a few moments to the Hoo-tchy-ee, we note that Kohklux has drawn two detached lakes to the westward, but without river connections. The nearest is named the Ta-ku-ten-ny'-ee, with a native village on the north. It is probably the I-she-ik of the tribe there. To Kohklux it may have been the Salmon River (Tah-ku) of the Ten-nai. The westernmost lake is very large, with two arms to the northeast, on the northern of which we have written "to Yukon" from Kohklux' dictation. Schwatka says the Indians call the White River the Yu-ko-kon-heen-a. The size, direction, and legend of the lake point to it as the great lake Tloo-arney of Glave, and the Klu-ah-ne on the Canadian map of 1898; and it is doubtless connected with the White River by its tributary the Donjek, or a branch of the Klu-un-tu of the Coast Survey. Glave says it is seven miles wide at the south end, and "stretches like a sea away to the north as far as the eye can reach." The Indians reported that they could reach the Yukon in "five sleeps" from their village. Glave got into confusion hereabouts, but it is clear this lake does not drain into the Kaskar Wurleh, which heads in a great glacier to the southwest of it. The natives on the lake call the White River the "Eark Heene," which Glave gives as Erkheenee on his map. (Irk means copper.)

From the divide Kohklux continued southward on the easterly slope of high hills, with Lake Yut-tae-ghat' on the east, which drains into the Kow-ae-Teenae, and thence into the Kow-wat-heen-a. Thence he reached the great northeast bend of the Katch-kwae-wugh', which drains the Lake Tots-an-tee-ash'. From this bend the great river swings to the west, receives the waters of the Ai-she-hik Lake, which heads in latitude 62 deg.; and farther down the great river it receives the waters of a river which Glave followed, and soon after joins the Kashar Wurleh below the Grand Canon of the latter.

From the great bend, Kohklux continued up the right bank of the river and the Lake Tots-an-tee-ash to its head; thence along the east side of the Lake Kluk-shugh', with a notable pyramidal peak to the westward. But he deviated southeastwardly from the Una-heen, across the great valley Sha-kwat (Glave's Shakwak), and the

small stream Tahk-heen-a from the east, and then struck northwest along the All-segh River to the annual trading station, Nes-ka-ta-heen, at the northerly bend, 2,500 feet above the sea. This station is west of and close to the mouth of the Una-leen, which drains Kluk-shugh. Here he mentions that on another trip down this river to the Pacific, he encountered the rapids, Tehu-kan-nagh', a log hut on the right bank (built in the style of the Russian log huts of Port Mulgrave—with a legend thereto), with the name, and other villages of "Sticks"; hence to its junction with the Kaskar Wurleh. Recent Canadian maps connect Lake Kluk-shugh with the Tots-un-tee-ash, or Dassar-dee-ash, but Kohklux does not. If they were connected, it would form a remarkable system. He left this place and followed the All-segh upstream towards the divide, at 3,100 feet elevation, and thence down the eastern flanks, of the hills and mountains, and around the western side of the great snow mountain, Ah-klen'. Continuing southward, he soon reached the lake at the head of the Ghlu-heen-a, which is the northern part of the Tklae-heen'-a, that empties into the Chilkaht just northwest of his village, Kluk-wan. Every lake and stream in this region he names. He was thirty days making his return trip.

This is a brief and perhaps unsatisfactory account of a double line of exploration. The return line is mainly the Dalton trail. We have not the space to collate the names of Kohklux with later investigators or traders. We staid long enough with the Chilkahts to get the proper pronunciation of their names; and having gained the friendship of Kohklux, he was ready to carry us to a location where, he averred, the coal was as good as that used on our steamers.

We may add that Ta or Tah is salmon; een, eena, etc., is a fresh-water stream; ik or irk is copper; una is flint; tlen, large, siti, the ice mass of a glacier; shagh, mountains.

